

images produced in the image field of a workstation by a user of such workstation are also produced in the image fields of all of the workstations.

2. A data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control means includes an identification means for assigning to the displayed image of the human hand an identifier representing the identity of a particular user of the control means.

3. A data processing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identification means assigns at least one of the following identifiers to the image:

a particular color selected out of a plurality of colors;

a particular size selected out of a plurality of sizes for the hand image;

a particular form selected out of a plurality of forms.

4. A data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means comprises:

a memory for storing a plurality of hand posture images; and

selection means coupled to said memory for selecting from the stored hand posture images a particular image or sequence of images in accordance with instructions signified to said selection means by the user.

5. A data processing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said selection means comprises at least one of:

(i) a keyboard including one or more keys to be actuated by the user to select a particular hand posture image or sequence of images from those stored in said memory; and

(ii) a mouse device including one or more buttons to be actuated by the user to select a particular hand posture image or sequence of images from those stored in said memory.

6. A data processing system comprising:

a display for producing a visual image field signifying to a user of the system one more or data processing operations being performed by the system on information items in said image field; and

control means for controlling said system to perform data processing operations selected in accordance with instructions signified to said control means by a user, and for causing said display to produce in said image field one or more images of a human hand at positions and in a posture or sequence of postures selected from a hand position code which relates particular positions, postures and sequences of postures of said hand images to corresponding data processing operations to be performed on information items in said image field other than said hand images;

said hand posture code including at least two different hand posture images;

the hand images in said image field constituting a visual indication of the data processing operations corresponding thereto to be performed in accordance with the user's instructions on information items in said image field other than said hand images;

said control means comprising a memory for storing a plurality of hand posture images and selection means coupled to said memory for selecting from the stored images a particular image or sequences of images in accordance with instructions signified by the user;

said selection means comprising a mouse device having one or more buttons positioned so that in order to actuate any particular button or buttons the user's hand must assume a distinctive posture, the posture so assumed corresponding to a similar posture of a hand image produced in said display by the actuation of said particular button or buttons, said posture corresponding to a sign in a hand posture language signifying a particular data processing operation to be performed by said system on information items in said image field other than said hand image.

\* \* \* \* \*

40

45

50

55

60

65